

Attachment to PTOL-413A

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The rejections need to be addressed at two levels.

First, is the application of Goddard alone to the present claims. To the extent that the Office asserts present claims do not adequately distinguish sootblower structure and use from the Goddard rocket motor, Applicants seek to: (a) discuss the merits; and (b) discuss any alternative language which would be acceptable to the Office.

The second involves applying Goddard to sootblower use and the combination of Goddard with sootblower references. It is one thing to apply Goddard alone to certain claims arguing that their sootblower-specific elements are mere statements of intended use. It is another thing to then bootstrap the rejection of those claims as if there was in fact a suggestion to use Goddard in the sootblower art so as to then combine it with sootblower references. Applicants submit the present Office action is insufficient in explicit or implicit articulation of the nature and basis of any such use and/or combination. For example, the details of the Office's hypothesized structure of the modified Goddard are unclear. There is insufficient asserted motivation.